



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5498

February Session, 2010

* ____HB05498APP__042010__ *

**AN ACT CONCERNING STATE CONTRACTS FOR MICRO
BUSINESSES, UTILITY DEPOSITS FOR CONNECTICUT BUSINESSES
AND THE CREATION OF A SMALL BUSINESS RECOVERY
PROGRAM.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 4b-57 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

3 (a) Whenever consultant services are required by the commissioner
4 in fulfilling the responsibilities under section 4b-1, and in the case of
5 each project, the commissioner shall invite responses from such firms
6 by advertisements inserted at least once in one or more newspapers
7 having a circulation in each county in the state except that the
8 commissioner may receive consultant services under a contract entered
9 into pursuant to subsection (d) of section 4b-51. The commissioner
10 shall prescribe, by regulations adopted in accordance with chapter 54,
11 the advance notice required for, the manner of submission, and
12 conditions and requirements of, such responses.

13 (b) In the case of a project, the responses received shall be
14 considered by the selection panel. The panel shall select from among
15 those responding no fewer than three firms, which such panel
16 determines in accordance with criteria established by the
17 commissioner are most qualified to perform the required consultant

18 services. In the case of any project that requires consultant services by
19 an architect or professional engineer, additional criteria to be
20 considered by such panel in selecting a list of the most qualified firms
21 shall include: (1) Such firm's knowledge of this state's building and fire
22 codes, and (2) the geographic location of such firm in relation to the
23 geographic location of the proposed project. The selection panel shall
24 submit a list of the most qualified firms to the commissioner for the
25 commissioner's consideration unless fewer than three responses for a
26 particular project have been received, in which case the panel shall
27 submit the names of all firms who have submitted responses.

28 (c) In the case of consultants selected under subsection (d) of section
29 4b-51, the responses received shall be considered by the selection
30 panel. The panel shall select, from among those persons responding, a
31 list of those persons most qualified to perform the consultant services.
32 Knowledge of the state building and fire code and whether the
33 consultant is a micro business, as defined in subsection (c) of section
34 4a-59, shall be considered in determining a consultant's qualifications.

35 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) No public service company
36 shall require a deposit from any customer or prospective customer,
37 other than a residential customer or prospective residential customer,
38 in excess of an amount equal to such company's charges for one and
39 one-half months.

40 (b) The Department of Public Utility Control shall initiate a
41 proceeding to examine the collection of deposits by public service
42 companies from any customer or prospective customer, other than a
43 residential customer or prospective residential customer. Such
44 examination shall include, but not be limited to, consideration of (1)
45 criteria used to determine creditworthiness of such customers, (2)
46 criteria for when the public service company shall return the deposit
47 plus interest, and (3) provisions for collecting deposits from such
48 customers moving from one location to another within the same
49 service area of the same company. On or before January 1, 2011, the
50 department shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the

51 general statutes, the results of such proceeding to the joint standing
52 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
53 relating to energy.

54 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) (a) Within existing budgetary
55 resources, the Commissioner of Economic and Community
56 Development shall establish and administer a small business recovery
57 program to provide loans through economic development entities and
58 nonprofit organizations to businesses that have been denied by
59 traditional lenders. Loans provided as part of this program shall be for
60 amounts not less than fifteen thousand dollars and not more than fifty
61 thousand dollars.

62 (b) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with
63 the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to establish small
64 business eligibility criteria and guidelines for the loan program
65 established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Such eligibility
66 criteria shall include, but not be limited to, small businesses having (1)
67 not fewer than five employees and not more than twenty employees,
68 (2) not more than three million dollars in annual gross receipts, and (3)
69 not less than seventy per cent collateral to secure the loan.

70 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2010*) (a) For the purposes described in
71 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have
72 the power, from time to time, to authorize the issuance of bonds of the
73 state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in
74 the aggregate twenty-five million dollars.

75 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the
76 amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the
77 Department of Economic and Community Development for the small
78 business recovery program established pursuant to section 3 of this act.

79 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the
80 exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not
81 inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and
82 shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission

83 pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the
 84 money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized
 85 may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to
 86 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
 87 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
 88 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
 89 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be
 90 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
 91 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization which is
 92 signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
 93 Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission,
 94 in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this
 95 section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and
 96 credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the
 97 principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and
 98 accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of
 99 said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual
 100 payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State
 101 Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become
 102 due.

103 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) Notwithstanding any provision
 104 of the general statutes, the Department of Transportation may set aside
 105 any contract or portions thereof, or require any general or trade
 106 contractor or any other entity authorized by the department to award
 107 contracts to set aside a portion of any contract for contractors or
 108 subcontractors that had gross revenues not exceeding three million
 109 dollars in the most recently completed fiscal year prior to the contract
 110 award. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to diminish the
 111 total value of contracts that are required to be set aside by the
 112 department pursuant to section 4a-60g of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	4b-57

Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section

APP *Joint Favorable Subst.*